

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

July 1, 2003

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**FROM:**       **RAYMOND B. WINGERD**, Chief Probation Officer  
                  Probation Department

**CAROL L. ANSELM**, Assistant County Administrator  
                  Human Services System

**SUBJECT:   CONTRACT FOR DRUG TESTING SERVICES**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve Contract with San Diego Reference Laboratory in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 for drug testing services from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2006.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Probation Department, as an integral part of its case management and supervision responsibilities for adult and youthful offenders, requires, pursuant to a court order, that probationers submit specimens on a random basis for drug and alcohol testing. Analysis of these specimens may reveal continued abuse of controlled substances and violations of court orders.

The Human Services System (HSS) also requires drug-testing services pursuant to California Proposition 36, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act (SACPA) of 2000, which took effect on July 1, 2001. Under the Act, most non-violent adult offenders who use or possess illegal drugs will receive court-ordered substance abuse treatment and other social services instead of incarceration. The SACPA was designed to preserve jail and prison cells for serious and violent offenders; to enhance public safety by reducing drug-related crime; and to improve public health by reducing drug abuse through proven and effective treatment strategies. HSS also requires drug-testing services to analyze the appropriateness of Juvenile Court-ordered treatment plans for parents of abused and/or neglected Court dependents.

On March 25, 2003, the Board of Supervisors authorized the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) as a joint procurement effort between the Probation Department and Human Services System for drug testing services. The intent of the RFP was to identify new innovative testing capabilities that are gender neutral, portable, and that meet the standard of evidence requirements of the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the California Criminal Courts.

Probation has worked closely with Human Services System throughout the procurement process. On March 26, 2003, the RFP was released and made available on the County internet site, advertised in several local and state newspapers and sent to 57 previously identified agencies. Of the thirteen (13) agencies attending the mandatory proposal conference on April 16, 2003, only seven (7) bidders responded with proposals by the April 30, 2003 deadline.

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The proposals were ranked based on a competitive rating process. The evaluation team included representatives from Probation, Behavioral Health Office of Alcohol and Drug Programs, and HSS Administration. The evaluation criteria included: 1) functionality; 2) qualifications and experience in handling projects of similar type and size; 3) ability to provide product and services in a timely manner; and 4) cost.

The proposal submitted by San Diego Reference Laboratory best met the service requirements as defined in the RFP and was the most cost effective. Agencies unsuccessful in the procurement process were deficient in one or more of the following areas: 1) services or products offered did not meet functionality and/or other needs of the County; 2) lack of experience in handling projects of similar type and size; and 3) overall cost effectiveness. The table below includes the total annual costs proposed based on the comparable tests at the estimated annual volumes indicated:

Type of Test	Routine Urine	Presumptive Urine	Confirmation	Saliva	Totals
Estimated Volume	4,000	10,000	250	4,000	
San Diego Ref. Lab	\$ 16,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 96,000
PharmChem	\$ 31,880	\$ 35,000	\$ 4,250	\$ 100,000	\$ 171,130
LabCorp	\$ 32,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 6,250	None	\$ 98,250
Medtox	\$ 80,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 1,875	None	\$ 117,875
Redwood	\$ 20,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 2,375	None	\$ 216,125
Microbac	\$ 48,000	\$ 120,000	None	\$ 100,000	\$ 268,000
PassPoint*	None	None	None	None	\$ 42,000

\*Optical system only. Not approved for chain of evidence requirements. Cost is for one machine annually that would not be available for use countywide.

Unsuccessful agencies were notified by letter that they may protest the evaluation team's recommendations by submitting a formal protest letter to HSS Contracts by June 9, 2003. No protest letters were received.

Approval of this contract will continue the availability of drug testing options for Probation, particularly the flexibility for gender-neutral purposes, and will allow HSS the flexibility of using alternative testing methods as the need arises. When/if HSS utilizes the services of San Diego Reference Laboratory, the contractor will be paid on a fee-for-service basis at the contracted rates.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** This item and contract have been reviewed by County Counsel (Dawn Stafford, Chief Deputy County Counsel) on June 17, 2003; the County Administrative Office (Vicki Kratzke, Administrative Analyst on June 17, 2003; and Gary Morris, Administrative Analyst on June 17, 2003).

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**FINANCIAL IMPACT – PROBATION:** Adequate appropriations in the amount of \$200,000 are included in Probation's FY 2003-04 budget and will be included in subsequent FY 2004-05 and FY 2005-06 budgets, not to exceed \$600,000 in total. All of these services have been funded from local cost.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT – HSS:** It is anticipated that this contractor will provide minimal services for SACPA (Proposition 36). If provided the services will be on a fee for service basis. The State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) allocates funds each year to San Bernardino County Human Services System to cover the cost of implementing the SACPA. Funding will, if services are provided, come from the \$400,000 that is available for countywide SACPA drug testing services in FY 2003-04. Funding is expected to continue at the current level in FY 2004-05 and end after FY 2005-06. Adequate appropriations and revenue are included in the proposed SACPA (Proposition 36) budget. There is no local cost.

**Cost Reduction Review:** The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with the departments' recommendation to provide these services, as required by court order, for holding violators accountable and for providing County departments with a variety of drug testing options for treatment or case management purposes.

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S):** All

**PRESENTERS:** Wes Krause, Deputy Chief Probation Officer (909) 387-5684  
Carol L. Anselmi, Assistant County Administrator, HSS (909) 387-4764

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